Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

SECRETSTATE 178744

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, US

SUBJECT: CONTACTS IN DEPARTMENT WITH PHALANGE REPRESENTATIVES

1. PHALANGE OPERATIVE AND BASHIR GEMAYEL LIEUTENANT ALFRED MADY CALLED ON NEA/ARN (POPE) JULY 14. MADY STARTED BY EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT WHAT WE HAD TOLD THE ISRAELIS WITH RESPECT TO ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE MARONITE MILITIAS. WAS IT TRUE THAT WE WERE PREVENTING ISRAELIS FROM SENDING ARMS AND THAT IN THE EVENT OF A CONFRONTATION, ISRAELIS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COME TO THE AID OF CHRISTIANS? WE SAID THAT IN GENERAL TERMS OUR POSITION WAS THAT SHIPMENTS OF HEAVY ARMS TO LEBANON BY ANYBODY WERE NOT IN THE SECRET

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INTERESTS OF PEACE AND STABILITY, BUT THAT WE COULD NOT DISCUSS OUR CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL ON THIS SUBJECT. MADY GAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT WEIZMAN'S MESSAGES OF RESTRAINT HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH, AT LEAST TO BASHIR GEMAYEL.

2. MADY OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT THE PHALANGE WOULD NOT PROVOKE A CONFRONTATION WITH THE SYRIANS; AT SAME TIME,

HE SAID FIGHTING WAS INEVITABLE AT SOME POINT UNLESS SYRIANS WITHDREW FROM ALL CHRISTIAN AREAS, BEGINNING IN EAST BEIRUT. HE SEEMED WORRIED THAT SYRIANS WOULD START SOMETHING IN COMING DAYS. HE SAID SYRIAN REINFORCEMENTS

WERE ARRIVING AT DHOUR ASH-SHWAYR, AND INDICATED PHALANGE WAS AFRAID SYRIANS WERE PREPARING FOR AN ATTACK ON BEKFAYA.

- 3. MADY VOLUNTEERED ONE STARTLING PIECE OF INTELLIGENCE: PHALANGE HAD HEARD THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING, PERHAPS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AT EHDEN, BETWEEN WALID JUMBLATT, ABDULLAH SAADE AND SULEIMAN FRANGIE, AND THEY WOULD FORM AN ALLIANCE UNDER SYRIAN PATRONAGE.
- 4. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION MADY REFERRED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT AND INDICATED HE THOUGHT VICTOR KHOURY WOULD BE A GOOD REPLACEMENT FOR SARKIS. WE SAID THAT IN OUR VIEW IT WAS IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND TO AVOID IRRESPONSIBLE ADVENTURES WHICH COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR LEBANON.
- 5. MADY CAME IN AT 10:00, AND AT NOON BRIEFING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED BY RADIO MONTE CARLO CORRESPONDENT WHO MADY CALLED ON AND WHAT HAD BEEN SAID. DEPARTMENT IS SECRET

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CONFIRMING THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE AT MADY'S REQUEST AND LEAVING IT AT THAT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: CONTACTS IN DEPARTMENT WITH PHALANGE REPRESENTA-TIVES

TAGS: PINT, LE, US, IS, (MADY, ALFRED)
To: BEIRUT TEL AVIV MULTIPLE

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